Newsletter Update

Dear Readers,

We are currently without a designated newsletter editor. The rest of the board will be putting together the news **every two months** (instead of every month) during the JAS active season (September through May), until we can recruit an editor.

If you enjoy the Raven and would like to help it continue, please help us find an editor. The ideal candidate will be proficient in the basics of Microsoft Word and Publisher and be able to edit short documents for common grammar errors.

Normally, the newsletter editor is also a full voting board member. However, we are glad to accept the help of regular volunteers. And, since everything is done electronically, we welcome help from members anywhere.

**Contact: raven@juneau-audubon-society.org** AND cc info@juneau-audubon-society.org OR Chat with us at a program OR message us on Facebook!

**Upcoming Events (See details inside):**

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<td><strong>Monthly Program: Aleutian Tern Migration</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Monthly Program: Tree Swallows</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Christmas Bird Count</strong></td>
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Juneau Christmas Bird Count

JAS has long been the organizer of the Juneau Christmas Bird Count. This time the official count will take place on Saturday, January 4, 2020. Detailed information regarding the event will be announced in December. If you are not on the CBC email list but would like to be, please email Patty Rose at p_rose_raven@yahoo.com.

We did not hear about other communities count dates yet, but we hope you will ask around and participate where ever you are.

Pick, Click, Give Success

Thanks to the generosity of Alaskans who donated a portion of their PFD to JAS: $675 donated!

Did you know? You can watch past programs on our Facebook Page.

Our events are free and family friendly.

Juneau Audubon Society

Board of Directors
President: Gwen Baluss
Vice President: Marsha Squires
Treasurer: Patty Rose
Secretary: Amy Sherwin
Field Trips: Jason Colon
Newsletter: Vacant
Membership: Lizzie Solger
Education: Vacant
Programs: Brenda Wright
Conservation: Debbie Hart
At Large A: Alexia Kieffer
At Large B: Winston Smith

Upcoming Programs

Sumatra to Southeast Alaska: what the journey of a migratory seabird can teach us. Dr. Sanjay Pyare will discuss Aleutian Tern migration. November 14, 7 p.m. at UAS Glacier View Room (Upstairs, near the Egan Library, note this is a location change from recent shows)

Report on Juneau Audubon Society Tree Swallow nest box project with our own Programs Director, Brenda Wright and JAS volunteers/photographers Jessica and Cody Millsaps. December 12, 7 p.m. at UAS Egan Lecture Hall (116).

Pick, Click, Give Success

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Talking Trash
By Gwen Baluss

Trash. There’s a lot of it around Southeast Alaska. Despite the pristine nature of our wildlands, our communities are anything but clean. Seems like every week a junked car appears along the side of the road near where I live in Juneau, stuffed to the ceiling with refuse. I’ve learned to take a big litter bag and some gloves if I want to have campfire at a local rec area to clean up before (and after). Even remote places can have a surprising amount of junk. I visited some remote bays on Chichagof Island last summer with a group of visitors that had expended a lot of time and money to experience “wild” Alaska. It was indeed wild, with bear and other animal sign. But we ran across a huge pile of tarps, traps, mattresses and other junk. The outer coast might be able to blame marine debris from other places, but most the inside passage has clearly been polluted by local use.

Recently I spent a few weeks car-camping in Arizona and Utah. There, dispersed camping is popular. Pull over on any side road on public land, and chances are you can set up camp for the night, for no fee, under the starry sky. It’s hard to believe this is still possible in this crowded century, but it’s a very special way to enjoy our public lands. Many places now are establishing spots where use is allowed, and instituting a few rules, mostly related to fire safety. But the ability to patrol these areas with limited staff at agencies like the Forest Service and BLM means that good behavior by and large must be voluntary. Given that I never saw anyone patrolling these areas, I expected to see a lot of garbage. I didn’t. Aside from a few toilet paper bouquets, all the camps were completely clean. Even the fire pits. I wish I knew what cultural influences have made this the case, but it appears we have a long way to go to catch up with some of our neighbors down south. (See pg. 5)

TRASH CONT. FROM PAGE 4 The problem is not just that it looks ugly. We should be particularly concerned about plastic waste along our streams and wetlands; these end up in the ocean with dire effects to marine life, especially seabirds who are facing potentially catastrophic levels of danger from ingestion of plastics.

To help change the culture and get rid of a bit of that trash, JAS is proud to help sponsor litter and beach clean ups, including those involving youth.

If you are a cleaner of beaches or waterways, there are many cool phone apps and websites available to report your data, hosted by organizations like the Ocean Conservancy : https://www.coastalcleanupdata.org/
JAS had a long tradition of selling jam and other local made or enviro-friendly goodies at the holiday market. However, the board made a difficult decision this year to take a break from the market and try other fundraisers. We looked at the tremendous number of hours it took and the overhead of renting a booth and other supplies and realized that the profit margin was quite slim. It would have been approaching negative had it not been for the generous donation of jars and labor by our tireless jam makers.

*We thank the many, many hours contributed by volunteers, and hope you will enjoy a deserved rest this holiday season.*

**Bird-a-thon Planned Next Spring**

If you miss seeing us at the market booth, don’t worry, there will still be ways to give to JAS. We plan to add a new fundraiser to our annual activities next spring, one that we hope for will fun both for the board and membership, and even gather some data about birds: a bird-a-thon. We will be asking for donations based on the number of birds found a given day, probably coinciding with other events such as World Migratory Bird Day or eBird’s Global Big day. Stay tuned!

**Join or Renew Membership Today**

- **National Audubon Society membership:** Join online and you’ll automatically join the Juneau chapter. [https://action.audubon.org/renew-membership](https://action.audubon.org/renew-membership)
- **Local only membership:** If you don’t want to join nationally, you can support JAS directly by mailing your name, address, email, and a check for at least $10 to P.O. Box 21725 Juneau, AK 99802

**Roadless Rule—Another Chance to Comment**

The Tongass National Forest provides vast habitat for forest-dwelling birds. Recently, there is a proposal to remove most of the Roadless Rule set aside to large tracts of forest. The new rule would possibly lead to increase in logging and other activities.

As a non-political and non-advocacy group, we are not going to comment on the latest plans or tell our readers what they should conclude. But we hope our members do weigh in! As it turns out, one personal letter, explaining how you as an individual, or your local business might specifically be affected, is probably worth 100 form letters generated through an organization.

The public has until midnight Alaska time on Dec. 17, 2019, to submit comments. You can submit comments in the following ways:

- **Web:** [www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511](http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511)
- **Email:** akroadlessrule@fs.fed.us
- **Mail:** USDA Forest Service, Attn: Alaska Roadless Rule, P.O. Box 21628, Juneau, Alaska, 99802
- **Fax:** 907-586-7852
- **In-person delivery to Forest Service, 709 W. 9th Street, Room 535B, Juneau, Alaska 99801**

Also, public hearings will take place in November. Visit the [project webpage](http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=54511) for the most up-to-date schedule.

(If the links above don’t work, you can find this information on the Tongass National Forest Schedule of Proposed Actions Website [https://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/components/reports/sopa-111005-2019-04.html](https://www.fs.fed.us/sopa/components/reports/sopa-111005-2019-04.html))
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.

Happy Holidays from JAS!

An Action-Packed Year of Environmental Education Events

Fall 2018 Juneau Audubon’s Education Chair Alexia Kiefer lead a talk along the Airport Trail with homeschoolers and families learning about hornworms (hawk moth larvae) and woolly bear (spotted tussock moth larvae), their lifecycles, interesting anatomy and metamorphosis.

Spring 2019 Raven and Idea Homeschool volunteers, JAS, Juneau Raptor Center (JRC) and Litter Inc. worked together to keep Juneau clean and birds safe! Groups cleaned accumulated trash in the back of the Fred Meyer store. Families learned the dangers of plastic to seabirds globally. The topic them was based on the 2019 World Migratory Bird Day slogan: “protect birds: be the solution to plastic pollution”. And we added: “Hold on to your balloons…. what goes up must come down…. or birds will drown! ”

Spring also brought many school class visits and field trips that involved hands-on learning with taxidermy birds, understanding beak adaptations, and bird skeletons. Alexia enjoyed sharing her love for birds with future birders from The Juneau Co-Op preschool, Raven, Idea correspondence schools, Glacier Valley Elementary LEAP Program, and Juneau School District’s STEM event.

Alexia hosted a field trip legally collecting eagle feathers with the Pack 6 Cub Scouts on the Mendenhall Wetlands. Participants learned about the National Eagle Repository and why they distribute eagle feathers to federally recognized Native American Tribes. The search started slow, but then a scout found an entire dead juvenile bald eagle, a major score for the repository!

In May, JAS had a blast sponsoring The Girls and Boys on the Run event. The plastic pollution theme was continued, as well as bird learning activities for participants and their families. (See pg. 10)
EDUCATION - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9. Thanks to Marie Martin for placing bird posters on the designated running trail, to JRC for their plastics awareness display and ADF&G for the prize drawing “Birds of Alaska” CD. Shout out to Marsha Squires, Alexia Kiefer, event volunteers, and to all the runners!

Summer 2019 JAS did several seabird presentations at River Bend Elementary School Summer Rally Program. Students learned all about seabird’s special abilities, names, behaviors. They felt feathers and bones, learned how to use binoculars, and played a fun seabird painted rock hunt- and- match game! Big thanks to Alexia Kiefer, Patricia Wherry and Brenda Wright for volunteering their time and sharing their knowledge.

Fall 2019 Every Fall JAS looks forward to hosting bird education stations for the Auke Bay 5th graders for a camp event at Eagle Beach. Volunteers this year were Patricia Wherry, Brenda Wright and Alexia Kiefer. The children are rotated between three different stations where they learned about diet, anatomy, migration and bird ID. The kids are always so engaged and enjoy all the fun hands-on earning.