JAS Monthly Presentations: Please join us at the Marie Drake Planetarium Thursday, November 11th for two showings (6:30pm and 7:30pm) for:

“Birds in the Sky: Avian Constellations” By Steve Kocsis

In person viewing dependent on Juneau Covid-19 precautions. Only 15 people per show, sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/2OF0B45A5A82DA7F58-heavenly. We are hoping to capture a video to share, check website for updates and virtual viewing options. https://www.facebook.com/Juneau-Audubon-Society-138280412980789

December’s presentation (Ducks or Birds in Winter) will be held virtually Thursday, December 9th.
Messages from our Past and Incoming Presidents

Moving On

Gwen Baluss—Past JAS President

This fall I am glad to pass the reins to our new president, Marsha Squires. As Marsha has been our VP, as well as double-hatting running our virtual field trips, she knows the organization well. She brings new ideas combined with a long-time commitment. I will continue as At-large member, to help with the transition.

Some of the most rewarding projects I have been involved with are helping Audubon Alaska with the Southeast Alaska Birding Trail and bringing on bird conservation interns. I’ve learned a lot by writing articles and often being the one who makes sure our newsletters appear (more or less regularly) and creating or editing the majority of the JAS Facebook posts.

While always frustrated with our limited capacity, I’m always impressed with what a small group of busy volunteers can accomplish. JAS is a great group. There are more spots available for board members and volunteers who care about Southeast Alaska’s birds and their habitats. Now is a great time to get involved! While JAS has no paid positions, our fundraising ability might be that key ingredient for that conservation or education project you’ve been dreaming about tackling. Maybe you could use a resume-builder in the non-profit world? Or, if you just want to help for few hours, chances there is something to help with. Contact info@juneau-audubon-society.org

Gratitude to Two Prominent Board Members

Marsha Squires—Incoming JAS President

The Juneau Audubon Society (JAS) has been fortunate to have had two long-standing dedicated board members share their time, ideas, and expertise for decades. Patty Rose has been on the board for over 20 years while Gwen Baluss is not far behind in service years. Patty, a passionate birder with an eye and ear for bird identification, leaves JAS most recently as Treasurer. Her impeccable skill, not only in the field, but with financial details has been greatly appreciated, and her desire to educate and encourage new birders admirable. Gwen, our outgoing President, has been the backbone of JAS. She has established partnerships and internships, mentored young birders, supported avian research, and championed the newsletter while also communicating to the board month after month. Together, Patty and Gwen have seen many changes and successes in the organization, and the JAS Board would like to express their sincere thanks for their dedication and hard work over the decades. We know the organization as well as the greater birding community is grateful for all you have given.

THANK YOU GWEN AND PATTY!!!

Your service and dedication to JAS is sincerely appreciated!

Female, white winged crossbill by Jessica Millsaps
JOIN THE BOARD  What a great opportunity!

We really need help! If you would like to be nominated for a position on the JAS Board of Directors please email your name and position of interest to: president@juneau-audubon-society.org

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On Thursday, October 14, 2021 JAS met to elect the Officers for the JAS Board of Directors. The following are our elected Officer positions:

- **President**—Marsha Squires
- **Vice President**—OPEN
- **Treasurer**—Betsy Fischer
- **Secretary**—Amy Sherwin

The other JAS Board of Directors include the following:

- **Education**—Kim Ramos
- **Field Trips**—Doreen Prieto
- **Membership**—Lizzie Solger
- **Programs**—Brenda Wright
- **Conservation**—OPEN
- **Newsletter**—Debbie Hart
- **At-Large**—Winston Smith
- **AT-Large**—Gwen Baluss (Outgoing President)

Please note—we do have open Board positions—please consider joining!

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Hey there! My name is Doreen Prieto.

For the past 18-plus months, I, along with many others, have been denied the pleasure of in-person birding field trips with our local Audubon Society Chapter. As a novice birder I have long looked to the Audubon Society to fulfill three of my favorite pastimes: to be outdoors (preferable places that I had not seen before), to meet new and like-minded friends, and to learn from experts.

So a couple of months ago I decided to act. I thought: instead of complaining that birding trips were not available and that I really did not know where to go to find birds and I wasn't meeting new friends or learning from local experts— that maybe I could be the person who would be able to contribute to getting all these things happening again. So, I threw my Muck Masters into the muskeg and submitted my name for consideration as the Field Trip Chair with Juneau Audubon Society. At the JAS Annual Meeting & Election on October 13, 2021, I beat out the competition. I am now your Field Trip Chair on Juneau Audubon Society Board of Directors!

Just like many birders I have a story to tell about how I became one. One year my mother bought me a copy of the *Little Golden Book of Birds*. When I was eight or nine years old our family went on a summer trip to the Los Angeles Arboretum. As usual, I wandered off on my own to explore Nature. I pushed aside some tall reeds and grasses. I saw a small pond and there rested a male Wood Duck! I identified him immediately from my Little Golden Book which I had read cover to cover. My first Life Bird! That was it. I have been looking at birds ever since.

I am a newcomer to Juneau, and I am happy to be living here. I arrived in April 2019, from Bend in Central Oregon, another great birding area. I work at Little Eagles and Ravens Nest - LEARN - as an Early Child Educator Aide, and I have a garden plot at the Juneau Community Garden.

I hope to make a contribution to the Juneau Audubon Society. I bring a lot of energy and enthusiasm. I am largely self-taught, and I hope to introduce others to the many birds who live here year round and those wonderful surprises to be discovered during migration.

Gunalchéesh, Thank you! Doreen
Looking for something to read:

*Ecologic Aspects of Lipid Deposition in Some Postbreeding Arctic Birds* by David W. Johnston


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Global Bird Day October 9, 2021

By Brenda Wright

Bird viewing is being encouraged all over the world by creating Global Bird Day counts. Cornell and eBird are challenging local birders to go out and see local birds. The Global bird days are to help document local birds at times when birds are migrating to winter homes. It is also a good way to see which local birds are still in the neighborhood. For us in Juneau it is a chance to see how many of our winter species have returned to our town.

In Juneau we didn’t have the most pleasant weather, but luckily, our birders can enjoy a birding challenge any time of year.

So I checked in the eBird (eBird.org) submissions for Juneau and other locations around SE Alaska and this is what I found:

- Juneau had 30 complete checklists and 66 species observed.
- Gustavus had 2 complete checklists and 25 species observed.
- Ketchikan had 2 complete checklists and 55 species observed.
- Sitka had 6 complete checklists and 48 species observed.
- Prince of Wales Island had 2 complete checklists and 9 species observed.
- I could not find any checklists for Hoonah, Petersburg, Wrangell, Haines, or Skagway.

Some of the interesting birds reported included black oystercatchers, Sabine’s gull, and fork-tailed storm petrels in Sitka. Yellow and orange crowned warblers, 32 robins, red breasted loon, Iceland and California gull, a flotilla of 270 common murres, and 150 western grebe in Ketchikan. Gustavus reported 35 Northern pintails, a pectoral sandpiper, Wilson’s snipe, American pipit, and a Lapland longspur.

Juneau’s birds included Anna’s hummingbird, Northern shovel-er, yellow warbler, peregrine falcon, herring gull, Lincoln sparrow, short-eared owl, merlin, white-throated sparrow, great-horned owl, American coot, and Pelagic cormorants. Our best hot spot was the Mendenhall wetlands, both the dike trail and river mouth. The next best were Eagle beach and Kingfisher pond.

Hope everyone can get out and enjoy birding all year round.